

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

REFS: A. STATE 130612, 3 JUL 73

B. STATE 134698, 10 JUL 73

BEGIN SUMMARY. CURRENT PROHIBITION ON US AUTHORIZING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BEYOND SLICE XXIII IS CAUSING INCREASING CONCERN TO OTHER ALLIES. MISSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS RE-EXAMINATION TO DETERMINE IF EARLY LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS IS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT P&P COMMITTEE METINGS 22 & 29 NOV 73, SEVERAL SLICE XXIV PROJECTS WERE AUTHORIZED, SUBJECT TO US CONFIRMATION "FOR FINANCIAL REASONS ONLY." US WAS AGAIN URGED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITE LIFTING OF CURRENT PROHIBITION ON APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATION INVOLVING PROJECTS BEYOND SLICE XXIII. US REPRESENTATIVE EXPLAINED NATURE OF PROBLEM ONCE MORE AND EXPRESSED HOPES THAT NECESSARY AUTHORITY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. THERE IS WIDESPREAD UNDERSTANDING AMONG ALLIED DELEGATIONS FOR US PROBLEMS. EACH MEMBER NATION'S GOVERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT HAS HAD SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. MISSION IS ALSO CERTAIN THERE EXISTS WIDE DELEGATION AGREEMENT THAT PRESENT APPROACH IS PREFERABLE TO ONLY OTHER ALTERN-

ACTIVE WHICH WAS AVAILABLE, I.E. HOLDING UP SLICE XXIV APPROVAL.
NEVERTHELESS, AFTER THREE MONTHS, FRUSTRATIONS ARE INCREASING,

3. THUS FAR THERE HAVE BEEN FOURTEEN PROJECTS TOTALLING IAU
2.4 MILLION (EQUIVALENT TO \$8.1 MILLION AT 3.38\$/IAU) WHICH HAVE BEEN
AUTHORIZED SUBJECT ONLY TO US FINANCIAL RESERVATIONS. THESE PROJECTS
AFFECT ALMOST EVERY MAJOR HOST AND USER NATION.
NO CONTRACT SIGNATURES HAVE YET BEENN
DELAYED, BUT THIS WILL OCCUR SOONER OR LATER, AND THIS WILL RESULT
IN COST INCREASES THAT WILL EXACERBATE
SITUATION. CONCERN FOR THIS POSSIBILITY SERVES TO FOCUS INCREASING
ATTENTION ON US PROBLEM IN MAJOR NATO CAPITALS.

4. MISSION APPRECIATES THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO
URGE EXPEDITIOUS ACTION ON NEW AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION
LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT CURRENT FORECAST FOR FINAL
PASSAGE IS LATE DECEMBER AT BEST. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEES WHICH ORIGINATED THE RESTRICTION DID SO ON THE BASIS
THAT THEY HAD NOT AS YET SEEN THE APPROVED SLICE XXIV. SINCE SLICE
XXIV WAS APPROVED IN AUG 73, WE ASSUME THAT DOD HAS MADE IT
AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEES AND THUS SATISFIED THEIR DESIRE TO REVIEW
ITS CONTENT. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT RECORD BE
RE-EXAMINED AND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE LEADERS BE APPROACHED IF
APPROPRIATE:

A. TO DETERMINE IF LIMITATION IMPOSED ON PROJECTS
BEYOND SLICE XXIII, AS STATED IN REFTEL A, CAN BE REMOVED, OR, FAILING

THIS,

B. TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY THAT FY 74 AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION
WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO REMOVE RESTRICTION, WITHOUT NECESSITY OF
CONTINUING DELAY UNTIL FY 74 APPROPRIATION LEGISLATION IS ALSO
FORTHCOMING.
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